

SO HAS FITS

Blackwell's Island Woman
from Soiling Her
by Hard Work.

Lizzie Leisner, and Apparently
does into the Cataleptic
State at Will.

THE "SPELLS" SAID TO BE GENUINE.

Doctors Declare That the Case Exhibits
All the Regular Symptoms, but
the Warden Believes She
is Shamming.

A woman with a case of voluntary fits is just now causing the keepers and doctors at the workhouse on Blackwell's Island a great deal of trouble. There seems to be no doubt that the proprietor of the fits has them at her own convenience, and takes one whenever she wants it. While she has them readily, it is a hard matter to bring her out of them, and they are pronounced genuine, triple-extract fits of the approved cataleptic variety by the physician in charge.

The "fit girl," as the woman is known on the island, is Lizzie Leisner, a shoplifter, who was sent up from Special Sessions on December 13 of last year. The girl is a pretty, black-eyed Jewess, about twenty years of age, with a wealth of black hair, the carelessness with which it is worn adding greatly to her attractiveness.

When she arrived at the institution on December 14 she was told that she would have to employ herself in scrubbing. She had just been examined by a physician who greets each arrival, and had been pronounced in good health.

When told that she would have to scrub the girl promptly had a fit. She fell down, her eyes closed, her form trembled, and

then she was quiet. Water was sprinkled on her face, but without any effect, and a doctor was called.

PREFERRED FITS TO SCRUBBING.

The physician placed his ear to her heart, and "sids exanms" the condition of the iris and felt her pulse. He applied restoratives, and in a short time the girl was able to walk unassisted to the hospital ward of the workhouse. Two days later she was said to be all right, and was detailed to scrub, but declared she would not.

"I'll scrub, but I'll not scrub," she said defiantly, looking at her well-kept hands and turning up her nose at the matron, who had become used to that sort of thing among women of this class, said she would have to scrub. When she came for orders to make the girl scrub or place her in a dark cell, the girl fell in another fit.

After the rules of the institution under Warden Dunphy make it mandatory in case of illness for a keeper or matron to send at once for a physician, and not to trust to their own judgment in any case. While the matron was sure the girl was shamming, she obeyed the rule, and much to her surprise, she held the water, but a genuine case of fits, and the girl was removed to the hospital.

In the hospital she had another fit when about to be ordered out to scrub again. She was sent to the charity hospital at the south end of the island to Warden Knowles, who wanted to make the girl scrub or place her in the hospital. For two days she worked at dusting and doing light tasks until the housekeeper of the place told her to scrub, she refused, and held the water, while the housekeeper would not rule her hands scrubbing. A physician was sent for, who said there was nothing wrong with her, and she was perfectly able to scrub. Before he had got away she had a fit.

She soon recovered, and was returned to Warden Dunphy's ward with a note saying that she had refused to scrub and had said she felt like having another "spell."

"Send that woman to the doctor," ordered the Warden. "If she is able to work I want to know it. If she is sick she will have to stay in the hospital."

HAS "SPELLS" AT WILL.

After she had left his office the Warden said: "That is the worst woman I have had here for years. Her fits, I think, are shamming. She has them only when it is a question of work, but the doctors say she has genuine fits, and, of course, I cannot punish a woman in that condition. But what puzzles me is that she has them at her own convenience, and takes one whenever she wants it. When she came here she talked English; now she declares that she doesn't understand a word of it. At the same time she was on the island she talked English perfectly."

"Her sham fits interested the rabbi who visits here. He is very superstitious, and thought my diagnosis of her was wrong from the story she told him. He was so impressed with it that he sent out a doctor to investigate her story. The next time he called he declared she was one of the worst women he ever had anything to do with."

The peculiar fact about Lizzie's "spells" or fits is that after they are over her temperature is normal, her heart regular and there is not the slightest trace of any ill effects, and she would pass an examination for any "insurance company" in existence. Her fits have a healthy color, her face is round, her figure plump and she is the picture of health.

GLEASON SWINGS HIS AXE.

Several of the Doughty Mayor's Henchmen Are Provided with Places.

Mayor Gleason, of Long Island City, announced several appointments when he arrived at the City Hall yesterday morning. There was one vacancy in the Committee of General Improvement, and to fill it the Mayor named Owen Woods, one of his staunchest friends. He also named an entirely new Board of Assessors. The three new men are James Davren, Charles McManis and Louis Willing. Mr. Davren will be president of the Board.

The outgoing administration reappointed all the clerks and employees of the General Improvement Department, except James Johnson, Jr., one of the old men.

The new committee has reviewed the order, and has dismissed the entire staff, and has made Robinson chief clerk of the department.

The Police Department will come in for a fair share of executive attention. In a few days, Mayor Gleason is sharpening a special axe for this department.

NE IS IN THE TOMBS.

Police Not Able to Corroborate the Story
of Katz, Who Says He Saw Mrs.
Runnett Murdered.

Acting Captain Vredenburg, of the West
Sixty-eighth Street Police Station, failed
to corroborate the statement of Joseph
Katz, yesterday, that he saw Real Estate
Agent Albert A. Nellis push Mrs. John A.
Runnett to her death. Katz claimed he
and a woman—probably a servant—saw
Nellis shove the woman from the top of
the steps leading to his house, No. 251
West Seventy-sixth street, into the arca-
way in which her dead body was found.

The police yesterday took Katz to every
house within a couple of blocks of Nellis's
house, but they could not locate the woman.

"Some of the people said they had not
heard of the case," Katz said. "I cannot
understand why Katz should make such a charge against Nellis
if it was not true."

Katz was taken before Coroner Hoebner and
subjected to an hour's examination. He
stuck to his original story, and in answer
to the coroner's questions, he said he went
to within a few doors of Nellis's house to
keep an appointment with a woman, and
went there again Thursday for the same
purpose. He declined to give the name of
this woman. At the close of the examination
the coroner committed him to the House
of Detention as a witness. He was repre-
sented by Lawyers John Fennel and J. Aspinwall
Hodge.

He was held to his original statement and
was recommitted to the Tombs without
bail. The lawyers claim that Katz is
crazy, and that before he put in an ap-
pearance in court, he should be committed
to a lunatic asylum. Katz was called at Nellis's house and said he
wished to see him concerning the case.
Nellis refused to see him. Katz said he
passed the house Thursday afternoon, but
does not remember calling on Nellis. He
was entitled to see him, he said, and the
man had to say, and was anxious to do so, but
the errand little Coroner refused to recognize
him. The police yesterday located the wife
of Katz, who informed them that she
would not believe her husband under oath.
She was so sure of her husband's story
that she would not believe him. He was
abandoned her. The officials of the
Broadway club have taken an interest in
him for three months and left of his own
accord. The inquest in the case is set for
next Wednesday.

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SMIFFED MR. BELASCO.

Miss Davis Sought to Disconcert
the Playwright While He
Testified.

Lawyers Design to Show That He
Was Not the First to Adapt "Miss
Helyett" from the French.

MRS. CARTER HAD NO AUTHORITY.
Author of the Play Examined Again in Kate
Davis's Suit Against Charles Froh-
man for \$5,800 Salary
and Damages.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—The Solicitors'
Loan and Trust Company, at No. 142
South Fourth street, assigned to-day. The
assignees are Thomas De Witt Cuyler and
Bingham B. Morris.

The failure resulted from unsuccessful
and unauthorized speculations on the part
of J. Rush Ritter, real estate officer of the
company, and a member of the Board of
Directors. Mr. Ritter speculated heavily
in a number of securities, chiefly in the
stock of the Citizens' Passenger Railway of
Indianapolis, and had also been concerned
in a number of real estate deals in New
York and elsewhere, and became deeply
involved, and to meet certain obligations
drew four drafts on a Mr. Cook, of New
York, to which were attached bills of pur-
chase for certain securities. Mr. Ritter
aggregated \$200,000, and bore the signature
of Mr. Ritter and the name by rubber
stamp of the Citizens' Loan and Trust
Company. The drafts were taken by Mr.
Ritter to the Tradesmen's National Bank
of this city, whose cashier, instead of en-
cashing them, he carried over to Mr. Ritter
the \$200,000 in cash. The drafts were re-
turned from New York dishonored.

President Clay, of the Solicitors' Com-
pany, consented to furnish the Tradesmen's
Bank with an indemnifying bond for
\$150,000, without waiting for the authority
of his directors. The directors were in-
formant of the creation of this obligation.
It is said, until Sunday last, nearly two
weeks after the event had occurred.

Mr. Ritter was taken over the board and
the action of the president and the bond
given by him were jointly repudi-
ated. The directors, however, declined to
bring suit for the \$150,000, and the as-
signment of the Solicitors' Company was
then decided upon by the directors.

"Do you know if Mr. Leslie Carter
ordered Miss Davis from the stage on the
night of December 8, 1892?"

"No, sir," said Mr. Carter, to my knowledge,
never ordered Miss Davis from the stage."

"Did Mrs. Carter ever have any authority
from you or Mr. Frohman to discharge
members of the company?"

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never ordered Miss Davis from the stage."

"Now, isn't it a fact that Mrs. Carter
often kept the play waiting this question,
"It makes no difference," said he, "in
this case, whether Mrs. Carter disobeyed
orders or not."

Mr. Frohman then sustained the objection
and Mr. Belasco smiled.

SURE HE HIRED CARRIAGES.

"Are you quite sure, as you testified be-
fore, that you hired carriages for Miss
Davis?"

"Yes, sir, I am."

"Miss Davis tossed her head disdainfully
at this answer.

"Where did you hire the carriages?"

"On Broadway, near the road, and once
or twice in the city."

"Have you been able to think of the
name of the dancing master you hired for
Miss Davis?"

"No, sir, I have not."

"Miss Davis smiled at this. Mr. Belasco
stated at a former hearing that he had
employed a dancing master to teach Miss
Davis how to dance.

"Do you want to address and name of
the dancing master, we can get it for you,"
said Mr. Frohman, blandly.

"Mr. Mayday was the address," said
Mr. Belasco, mournfully, "as the dancing
master is dead."

"Miss Davis laughed heartily and re-
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"Oh, but he must have an address all
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"A RAID ON THE TREASURY."

Comptroller Fitch Objected to a Street
Opening Assessment.

Comptroller Fitch and President Jerolam-
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Board of Street Opening over a letter that
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erty, and Fitch told him he was not in such
a hurry to make his report as he was to
dispose of the property. The opening of
Prospect avenue, he said, which was the
cause of a controversy over the assess-
ment, as the property to be benefited can
only bear 50 per cent of the whole.

SMYTH DECLINES HONORS.

The Ex-Recorder Bars Floral Tributes in
His New Position.

The attaches of the District Attorney's
office have been making preparations to
welcome back to the Criminal Courts Build-
ing ex-Recorder Frederick Smyth, who
was his seat Monday in the criminal
branch of the Supreme Court in the room
formerly known as that of the Court of
Oyer and Terminer.

Mr. Smyth has requested that all
formalities be dispensed with, and has
issued orders to the court attendants not
to permit any floral emblems to be brought
into the court room.

The members of the District Attorney's
staff and the Judges of the General Ses-
sions, yesterday, had a dinner at Justice
Smyth's house. He had been out of office
last year before he went out of office. They
have arranged to tender a dinner to him
evening at the Hotel Savoy. It is ex-
pected that about thirty of the ex-Re-
corder's staff friends will attend. Dis-
trict Attorney Fellows will act as toast-
master.

KEYS TO THE BURDEN SAFES.

The Originals of the Duplicates Were
Used in Getting the Jewels.

A representative of the safe company
that has in its possession the safe from
which Mrs. L. Townsend Burden's jewels
were stolen said yesterday that there was
absolutely no doubt that both Mrs. Bur-
den's safe and the other in Mrs. Burden's
room were opened with duplicate keys of
the safe. The safe was locked upon ex-
amination showed any evidences of having
been tampered with, nor were there any
traces of wax to indicate that impressions
had been taken of the lock.

This statement will account for the per-
sistence with which the police have ex-
amined and still examine the safe. Acting
Captain O'Brien said yesterday that his
detectives were still at work, but had
discovered nothing of importance as yet.

Grand Jury Thanked and Discharged.

The Grand Jury for the December term
was discharged by Judge Cowles in the Gen-
eral Sessions, yesterday. The Judge said that
the Grand Jurors deserved the thanks of the
community for their labors and the painstaking
manner in which they discharged their duty.
He informed them that they had passed on 700
cases, 200 of which were dismissed.

On the day of the trial of William Wallace,
on behalf of the jurors, presented Edward J.
Selver, the stenographer to the Grand Jury,
in the case of the trial of William Wallace.
Yesterday was Mr. Selver's last day in the
Criminal Court, as he has been appointed
recorder of the I. of the Trial Court of the
Supreme Court.

TRUST COMPANY FAILS.

Unauthorized Speculations on the Part of
Its Real Estate Agent, Now
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